

the MIL-ATARI

Limited Edition



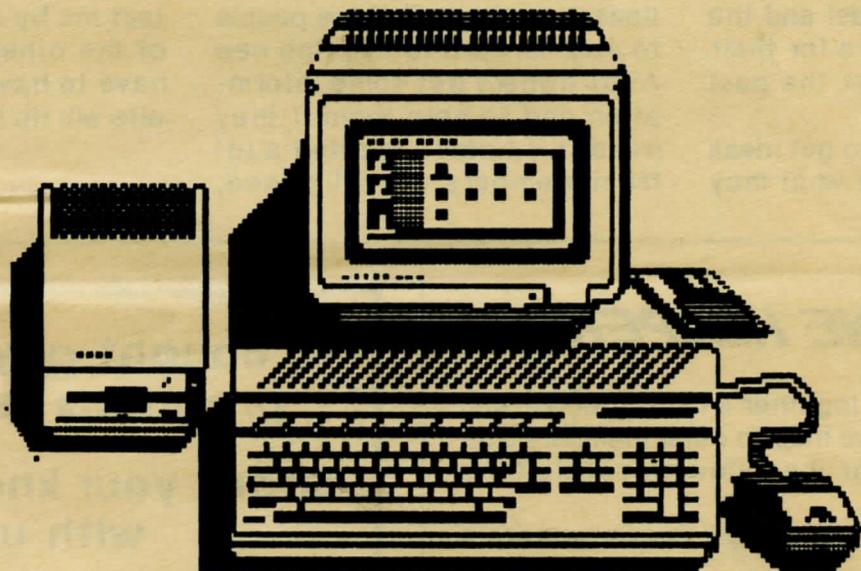
Milwaukee Area Atari Users Group

Vol. 6 No. 6

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June 1987

SPECIAL CES REPORT



The latest in hardware and software
for the ST and 8-bit Atari computers!

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 20, 12:00 Noon
SIG's will follow the business meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Sunday, June 28, 7:00 PM
at the Ground Round, Hwy. 100 and Bluemound



FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bruce Welsch

The next couple of weeks are going to be very busy for the other new Board members and me as we start to take over new jobs and get a feeling for exactly what you, as members, want from your user club, MILAtari. The first thing that I want to do is to thank Ron Friedel and the other Board members for their excellent efforts over the past year.

I am going to try to get ideas from the members on what they

want, i.e. demos, SIGs, etc. If you have any ideas, please write them down so that we can try to help you.

I believe that the club needs members who have an interest or special knowledge on games, utilities, and business applications. I want to ask these people to step forward to help the new Atari owners get some information and to help them if they need it. I know I learned a lot from members when I joined,

and I'm sure I'm not the only one.

If you need to contact me, please leave a message on MILAtari's BBS with a name and phone number. I will check the BBS every day or two. If you do not have a modem, please contact me by mail, or contact one of the other board members. I have to have it this way, or my wife will rip my head off.

Thank you,
Bruce Welsch

TELEPHONE HELPERS

We are trying to put together a list of people who would be willing to give help to other members over the telephone. So far the following people have volunteered.

- Dave Davis (284-2206) ST Spreadsheets & Zoomracks.
- Ron Friedel (354-1717) AtariWriter+, Data Perfect, and 8-bit communication programs.
- Paul Kuehn (475-6272) ST (general help), desktop publishing, word processing, graphics programs.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members from the April meeting.

Jim Birk, Ron Ellenbecker, Janet Fischer, Dorothy Frick, and David Gross.

Members that renewed at the April meeting.

Bob Bialecki, Steve Carlson, Bob Duchek, Greg Kotarski, Dan Prokopowicz, Dale Rybacki, and Bruce Welsch.

**Bought any good
programs recently?**

**Share your knowledge
with us!**

**Write a review for
your newsletter!**



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FROM THE EDITOR

by Paul Kuehn

Greetings! I'm sure one of the questions that's on your mind if you weren't at the last meeting or haven't been on our BBS recently is, "Where is my May newsletter?" Well, I apologize, but there wasn't one. The main reason for this was an unusually busy schedule on my end (weddings, breakins to my home, etc., etc.,), but also the need to get back on a reasonable production schedule. You see, I took over this job midway between two newsletters, and have been behind ever since. Since my schedule did not allow me to catch up, it was necessary to skip a month.

A contributing factor, however, was the almost total lack of submissions (read: ARTICLES) from YOU. (Thank you to those of you who did submit articles, you know who you are.) Producing the newsletter in this fashion takes a lot more work and time than pasting up photocopies. If I am to continue doing it this way I NEED your help. I can only do so much of it alone. If you ever check out other club's newsletters from our libraries, you may notice that the

better ones always have a STAFF of people working on them: regular contributors, editors, etc. The more help and input we get from our members, the better our newsletter will be. And that spells more potential advertisers! The more advertisers we get, the more income we get. And that means your club can do more for you. PLEASE, come forward and get involved. I guarantee you, you'll be glad you did.

On to this month. A lot has been happening, with CES at the end of May, and new officers elected in MilAtari. In case you haven't heard, Bruce Welsch was elected President, Dave Mumper is Vice President, Demetrius Sotiriades is our new Secretary, and Carl Verbanac took over as Treasurer. Thank you to all of our outgoing officers for their efforts over the past Year(s).

You may have noticed from our cover that the newsletter now has a name: The MilAtari Limited Edition. The winning name was submitted by Gary Nolan, who generously donated his free year's membership back

to the club. Thanks, Gary. Gary's suggestion for a name was voted the winner at the last board meeting by all in attendance.

The majority of this newsletter is devoted to the news from CES. There is so much of it that some of the articles that I originally had scheduled for this month have had to be rescheduled for next month. But then news must of course take precedence over reviews. Many thanks to those of you who submitted articles, if you don't see them here, look for them next month.

One final word on newsletter submissions, I should have them by the time of the meeting in order for them to be included in the following newsletter. You can either arrange with me to send it to me via modem, or upload it to the BBS, where Rich will put it in a safe place for me. If you don't have a modem, call me and we'll make other arrangements. My number is in the inside back cover. Thanks, and I'll see you at the meeting!



Consumer Electronics Show '87

- a walk through the Atari displays

by Bruce Welsch and David Mumper

Despite the fact that there were 3 computer shows taking place simultaneously, the CES had a nice showing of products for the Atari computers. Software was more abundant than hardware and most shown was high quality. The show seemed much more geared towards the ST, with few 8-bit products shown, although this could be an oversight on our part, because we both own ST's.

Among 8-bit products, the most important one that caught our eye, was the announcement of a double-sided double-density drive for any Atari 8-bit. The drive will be supplied with a new DOS so that it will work with any of the usual formats, single, enhanced and double densities in single as well as double sided. The SX-212 modem wasn't displayed, but they are forecasting a shipping date in July. For software, the only things that we really saw were the Dungeon disk for Alternate Reality, from Datasoft, and Spy vs. Spy III: Arctic Antics and Boulder Dash Construction Set, from Epyx.

Atari was finally showing their much touted 65XE Game System. This is basically an Atari 65XE, with a detachable keyboard, and an ability to expand into a full 8-bit computer. As of the show, the packaging was going to include 3 games, Flight Simulator II, Missile Command, and a target shooting game that includes a light gun.

The keyboard is also included, as well as a joystick. The unit is in the same gray color scheme as other Atari computers, with the standard Atari console keys being large, circular, and in pastel colors. It will use any of the standard Atari cartridges, and Atari is busily converting many disk based games into cartridges so there is a large number of programs immediately available. Of course you do have the option to add on either a disk drive or a data cassette.

The Atari booth was smaller than last year, having only about 15 independent vendors displaying their wares. They had the booth set to a theme of Flying High, wings and all. A large portion of the booth was set aside for a cockpit from an airplane as a setting for an ST running Flight Simulator II. They had a second level where they showed the 65XE Game System, and there they actually had a whole airplanel For an idea on how close the Game system is to production, the game cartridges they were running were not even in cases, just boards with the chips wrapped in packing material.

We had lots of fun looking at the new software for the ST, as well as talking to their publishers. By the time you read this, Psygnosis should have Barbarian available which is a game similar graphics-wise to Brat-tacas with many improvements

in playability and graphics. They also should have another game, Terrorpods, available in about a month. Broderbund was showing many things, not the least of which was Karateka which has VERY nice looking graphics and should be available soon. They also have The Print Shop, and a new package called the Director series which is a 2 program package with Art Director, a 16 'canvas' drawing program, Film Director, a cell animation movie maker. Eidersoft was showing their sound digitizer, Pro Sound Designer, which looked very impressive. Also listed, they have a Pro Sprite Designer, for making animation simple, Minicomm, a Desk accessory that allows you to transfer files while doing other things, Flash-Bak and Flash-Cache, for hard drives, Tempus, a very fast and powerful word processor, and many other things. They should be a very strong company in the ST field. And Epyx has Spy vs. Spy: Arctic Antics, sub Battle Simulator, and Boulder Dash construction set also planned for the ST.

Some of the things of note at the Atari booth include First Byte software's Mathtalk Fraction's, which is another program in their line of excellent speech assisted teaching programs. They also should have Smooth-talker, Speller-Bee, Mad-Libs, and Discovering Dinosaurs available shortly. Timeworks was

showing an updated version of their Word-Writer ST package which included an integrated Thesaurus, Mail Merge and expanded Dictionary functions. They should also be releasing Partner ST, a desk accessory package. FTL was showing a completed version of Dungeon Master that I would want even without the manual which is holding up the release date. Springboard was showing Certificate Maker and the Certificate Library Disk 1. Michtron was showing LOTS of software that they will be importing from overseas. Included in these is a game called Airball that looks like a very nice maze game, a new video digitizer named Pro 87 which has very high quality results, and the sound digitizer that created all the nice 1 Meg sound demos called ST-Replay. Once again Hybrid Arts was demonstrating their Midi software, including the Kill A Happy Face maze game. Antic was showing some programs that will be available for the 3-D glasses

they are marketing. One of the more intriguing programs available was Easel/ST, Computer Fenestrations first shot at the ST which allows you to have any DEGAS picture for your desktop background. And the last company to mention is Electronic Arts, who have earned the name Amiga Lovers. The software they were showing was definitely below the average level. Gridiron, a visually disappointing football game, and Music Construction Set, a poorly worked conversion from the 8-bit world were their main demos. And throughout the Atari booth, there were monitors showing the commercials that will be airing on NATIONAL TELEVISION later this summer. Watch for them, these commercials are definitely worth seeing.

In the department of 'Big Disappointments', Atari didn't have any Mega ST's, SX-212 modems, or Laser Printers at the CES. All the demo models were shipped off to the West German

Hannover Fair. Also missing was Commodore, and the Amiga. They thought the Comdex Show in Atlanta was more important. And lastly, this year the computer section was not kept all together like last year, making it a little harder to hit all the places. There were watch makers, car alarms and stereos, copiers and calculators mixed in. As a small benefit of this, we came across a company making Atari calculators, they range from a series of small credit card size up to complex desktop models. Interesting, finally a truly portable Atari.

Well, there was much more to see than we could pack into 5 hours of roaming and talking, but from the companies we did see and chat with, it sure looks like it will be a superb year for the ST. The flyers that we picked up there will be at the meeting for you to get more info on these and other products.

- The Prez and Vice

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ANTIC'S JUNE '87 CES REPORT

by Nat Friedland, ANTIC Editor

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Opening Day Overview - May 30

Atari's 8-bit computer line is far from dead -- with a new double-speed, double-density 5 1/4 inch disk drive due this summer, as well as the long awaited 1200 baud plug-in modem and the 80-column box... plus the Game System that comes with 64K, a keyboard, a light gun and Flight Simulator II.

The ST has yet another new wave of remarkable and mind boggling products on the way. Within our first hour at CES we saw a 4-megabyte memory board that goes into any ST without soldering, and the Hybrid Arts ADAP Soundrack CD quality stereo sampling and editing system that competes with the vastly more expensive Synclavier and Fairlight in high-end MIDI.

And these are just quick first impressions from the opening hours of a Electronics Show that supposedly was not going to produce any major new Atari announcements... The first day of CES is still underway as I write this on Antic's trusty Radio Shack 100 in hopes of catching a special Saturday merge that ANTIC ONLINE has arranged with CompuServe. So let's get right to the opening round of news:

8-BIT UPDATE

We'll start with the good news for 8-bit users. The XF551

disk drive is the big surprise. It's a compact 5 1/4 inch drive in XE gray, about 3/4 the size of the now-discontinued 1050 drive and priced in about the same \$160 range as the 1050. The XF551 is also claimed to be 2.9 times faster than a 1050 and boasts true double density -- as well as automatic compatibility with every other density format ever used for the 8-bit Atari. It seemed clear from talking to a number of Atari sources that a 3 1/2 inch disk drive for the 8-bit computers is now unlikely to be produced.

The XF551 drive will have a new ADOS operating system which is nearing by OSS, the creators of DOS 2 and DOS 2.5. Promised features of ADOS include a tree structure allowing directories and easy toggle between menu or command operations.

According to Atari's Jose Lopes, the key engineer/designer of the new products described in this dispatch, the first XF551 drives can be expected to start trickling into the stores by July. The same July arrival date now holds true for the 80-column XEP80 display box (reviewed in the July '87 Antic) and the new 1200 baud SX212 modem. Valdes says both products have been delayed by a wait for delivery of main chips, but all other components and packaging are stockpiled in readiness for assembly at Atari's Taiwan factory.

AtariWriter Plus 80 was operating on the XEP80 in a razor-sharp 80-column display at the Atari Booth. The SX212 modem will be bundled with a new version of Keith Ledbetter's famed Express software which the author is scheduled to demonstrate later in the show.

XE GAME SYSTEM

The first working pre-production prototypes of the XE Game System were view atop the roof of Atari's large booth structure, along with a real Cessna airplane that Atari somehow got into the new CES North Hall. The Game System is essentially a two-piece 65XE computer that costs as much as a 130XE.

But instead of 128K memory, you get a light-gun, a joystick and three games -- Flight Simulator II on cartridge, Missile Command in ROM and a pistol game called Bug Hunt. At least 18 arcade and disk best-sellers are now promised for Atari cartridge by Christmas, including 1 On 1, Gato, Midnight Magic, Karateka, Choplifter and Blue Max. Most titles are to sell for \$19.95 each.

Atari Software Director John Skruch says the XE can get as much as 256K on a bank-switching cartridge. Flight Simulator II only required 128K. Two hard hitting TV commercials for the Game System were on display. This is designed to be sold in separate pieces overseas.

Eventually the light-gun will be available in the USA as an 8-bit peripheral. An ST mouse will work on the XE Game System in trackball mode -- CONTROL-T.

ANOTHER ST BONANZA

This CES had another dazzling array of ST computer products on display. We'll be looking at a lot more of them in our later reports. During just our first hours around the crowded Atari area, here's what we found that seemed especially impressive:

Micro D of Canada was showing a prototype 2/4Mb memory upgrade board that is supposed to install inside any ST without soldering. The Data-Free Board will sell for \$159 without RAM chips. The 4-megabyte upgrade requires 32 chips and the 2Mb takes 16. The chips cost \$30 each from Micro D or you can shop for a better price on your own. Hybrid Arts, the king of Atari MIDI developers, was showing their \$1995 ADAP Soundrack digital sampling system, which will be on sale in July. ADAP offers the sound quality of compact disks -- in true stereo if you get a dual hardware setup. On a stage in the Atari area, ADAP was in action -- effortlessly pulling selected portions off any tape and manipulating the sound in real-time with a simple visual interface. Sounds could be played back in reverse, cut and pasted, stretched, faded and otherwise manipulated, as fast as you could click a mouse.

Frank Foster of Hybrid Arts told Antic that Tom Hudson is looking into ADAP math

co-processor box for speeding up certain math-intensive operations of his graphics software (DEGAS, CAD-3D) such as ray tracing.

Springboard was showing their little-publicized ST conversion of Certificate Maker at the Atari booth.

Shelbourne Software's 3D Breakthrough, the first ST game using the Stereotek 3D Glasses, was a spectacular sight. You move through an elaborate maze by shooting your way through flashy barriers. The disk will also include a non-3D version that doesn't require glasses.

ST NEW PRODUCT ROUNDUP - JUNE 1, 1987

What looked like a very powerful and easy-handling 2-D drafting and drawing program was being demonstrated by Xetec of Salina, Kansas (makers of the Grafix AT which has been reviewed in Antic). SCAD gives you pages for 16 ST drawings in RAM. All commands can be operated from GEM or from the keyboard. The \$99.95 program is due in September and will not be copy-protected. Page sizes can be defined as large as 32 X 32 inches and many powerful graphics editing tools are built-in. SCAD can convert images into DEGAS format. We'll also be reviewing Xetec's new Printer Enhancer, a \$249.95 buffer/switcher with 8 built-in type fonts.

A software team from Venezuela was showing MasterCAD 3-D, a \$199.95 program that converts any 2-D image into real 3-D and seems quite easy to operate. The current version re-

quires 1Mb and monochrome. Final U.S. distribution is still being set.

Passport Designs, a leading MIDI software house, is rushing to convert first ST product -- Master Tracks Pro, a high-powered, user-friendly 64-track sequencer that has been winning rave reviews on the Macintosh this spring. The Passport CES team told Antic that three out of four visitors to their booth wanted this product on the ST instead of the Mac.

Computereyes, a 1986 Antic Award Winner, is being shown at CES in an inexpensive \$149.95 monochrome version (it can produce gray scales on the color monitor). This is the latest Atari video digitizer from Digital Vision. Their ST color unit will be reviewed in the August 1987 issue of Antic.

Another specialized new use for the ST is to run a graphics database for serious chess-players. SciSys of London is showing two versions of ST ChessBase -- the software that current World Champion Garry Kasparov has been using to prepare himself for tournaments.

With Chessbase Sr., every recent tournament game of an upcoming opponent can be fed into the database and instantly examined from a vast variety of viewpoints to pinpoint potential weak points of play. You can see how an opponent reacts to any standard style of opening or strategy. ChessBase Jr. works with the expensive Leonardo world-class chess computer and the ST. U.S. distribution for all these products was being finalized at CES.



An add-on to PrintMaster Plus, the Print Shop workalike from Unison World, will be a Fonts and Borders disk. Price is not yet set.

GAME GALLERY

Microprose had a customized Link Trainer "flying" on the CES floor as it was piloted with the new Gunship helicopter simulation. The ST version is still under development.

Mindscape, which hosted a Sunday rock oldies concert for 1,000 (Bo Diddley, Sam & Dave) showed two \$29.95 ST color games designed in England. Q-Ball is a 3-D billiards game played inside a cube where you can adjust the gravity and line up your shots off any wall. Plutos is a shootout where your rocket flies over the scrolling surface of the huge enemy mothership and attempts to destroy it.

From England's Psygnosis, creators of the visually awesome graphic adventure game Brataccas, comes another lushly detailed extravaganza. Barbarian moves a Conan-type hero through an a vast, scrolling underground kingdom -- color only -- where monsters and hordes of enemy guards must be overcome on every screen.

Electronic Arts is starting to crank out some ST titles too. An enhanced version of Music Construction Set -- with MIDI -- is due in July for \$39.95. Other new features are direct waveform editing and a jukebox playback mode.

EA has also taken over distribution of the First Byte talking ST software. First releases are MathTalk, a flashy

arithmetic drill for youngsters, and a talking computer version of Mad Libs, the popular series of humor books where you add inappropriate words to prepared storylines.

Still more from Electronic Arts, a kind of super-Diplomacy strategy game called Empire, where you conquer weaker parts of the world and force them to build weapons and raise new armies for your war machine. But your enemies are just as ruthless, and you can also start the game by re-drawing the map of the world to suit your own tastes.

Logical Design Works has a whole line of fast-moving ST gambling simulations for \$34.95 each. Vegas Gambler combines blackjack, roulette, slot machine and poker machine. Other titles available are Vegas Craps and Club Backgammon.

From Canada Jagware is making its ST debut with Alien Fires, a color-only 3-D space maze arriving this summer.

AVATEX 2400 BAUD MODEM

Avatex, well-known for its low-priced Hayes-compatible modems, now has a speedy 2400 baud unit. List price is \$319 but previous Avatex modems have been dramatically discounted.

We ran into some offbeat items for souvenir-hungry Atarians. Classic Covers offers protective covers for Atari computers, monitors, disk drives and printers -- all emblazoned with a big golden fuji symbol and the Atari name. Another company was showing credit card sized pocket calculators featuring the fuji and Atari name.

By the way, Atari used the CES opening to announce that they had a 45% in first quarter sales this year -- \$65.1 million -- and they were making a 2-for-1 stock split.

This news bumped up the price of Atari stock by about \$5, to over \$30 per share.

8-BIT NEW PRODUCT

ROUNDUP - JUNE 1, 1987

"Okay, all those letters this month from Antic readers have convinced us there's still an 8-bit Atari market out there," said Springboard Software president John Paulson at his company's CES booth. "You'll be glad to know that Springboard has now started work on an 8-bit Atari version of Newsroom."

Newsroom is a popular entry-level page layout program for easy newsletters. Springboard is already showing an ST version of their Certificate Maker here, this product is currently shipping.

Good news for Atari graphics users who have been trying to find a touch tablet. Suncom's Animation Station for XL/XE is now available. The included software provides many pre-drawn pictures as well as automatic shape generation. The tablet can be used in place of joysticks or paddles to control any standard Atari software, according to Suncom.

At Antic's suggestion, Suncom is now looking into converting their convenient keyboard-mounted joystick for use with the Atari 8-bit and ST.

Strategic Simulations Inc. had extra reason for celebrating at their suite, high above the Chicago River. Last week they



signed a contract with to start the first computer versions of the original Dungeons and Dragons games. You should be able to play D&D on your Atari by Christmas.

Datasoft, now being released through Electronic Arts, has two welcome 8-bit titles due out before July. Video Title Shop (\$29.95) lets you create colorful animated sequences with graphics and moving text -- which can be transferred to your video recorder tape via standard electronics cables. Video Title Shop includes the Micro-Painter Plus paint program and a library of built-in borders and screen images. Scrolling, position changes, fadeouts and a whole

range of video special effects are supported. A second disk of video "clip art" for the program will also be released this year.

Also from Datasoft at \$29.95 is the second installment of Alternate Reality -- The Dungeon -- which seems to play much faster and more conveniently, with less disk swapping than the earlier installment of this large scale graphics adventure game.

Most of the unreleased software on display at CES was promised for shipment by early summer. One of the few new packages I was actually able to bring back for review is Virtuoso. This is the long-evolving music/graphics storyboard system that Antic previewed almost two

years ago. The XL/XE version is \$49.95 and the ST version is reportedly well along in development.

Infocom had two of its top adventure programmers on hand at the show -- Dave Lebling (Lurking Horror) and Steve Meretzky (Stationfall, Hitchhiker's Guide). Brian Moriarty was left home in Boston to continue working on the new Beyond Zork project which will blend role-playing with the text adventure format. Activision, Infocom's parent company, had only two arcade cartridges for the Atari 2600, Kung Fu Master and Commando. --

MIL-ATARI LTD. BOARD MEETING MINUTES

- May 18, 1987

by Demetrius Sotiriades

With Milatari still settling in to its new home at U.W.M. and the changes in officers from the recent election the major topics dealt with ideas for new directions for Milatari and with the transition of government (such as we have).

It was agreed that a financial report for last year will be issued. The board also approved of the purchase of some new software. The list includes Hippo Spell, ST Tool Box, Music Studio, Print-Master and Silent Service.

The purchase of the new ST was strongly supported however buying the ST will be delayed thirty days because the treasury has not yet been transferred.

Means of getting more publicity were also discussed and it was generally felt that this was important to the future of Milatari, particularly raising our visibility on campus. Dennis Wilson is having posters made up, and a promotional disk is being made up to sell to stores for \$3.00 with a suggested retail of \$5.00.

On the lighter side the winner of the Milatari newsletter contest was "Milatari Limited Edition", submitted by Gary Nolan. The prize was a year's free membership which Gary has graciously donated back to the club.

My apologies for any errors or omissions as I was unable to make this month's board meeting.

-Demetrius Sotiriades,
Mil-Atari Secretary

CEBIT '87 ST REPORT -exclusive to ANTIC ONLINE

by Christian Schmitz-Moermann

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What is CEBIT?

The CEBIT fair at Hanover supposedly is the world's largest show in bureau and information electronics. CEBIT stands for: Computer, Electronics, Bureau, Information and Telecommunication. On an area of more than 205,000 square meters in 12 halls more than 2200 firms showed their products.

This year's show had snowstorms causing chaotic traffic situations so even the usually reliable Bundesbahn (federal train service) had delays of up to 6 hours. For this reason the show was nicknamed 'Schnee-BIT' (Schnee is German for snow). But anyway, though we arrived late, we finally got there and it became a very interesting day.

HARDWARE...

ATARI presented itself in its newly adopted white-and-blue look and on 50 1040s the software-houses presented their new products.

Before looking at the software I was pulled to the new MEGA-STs and that experience was great. The design was appealing and the keyboard a lot better than my 1040's. Hela, the MEGAs won't hit the stores before May or even June due to a slight timing- problem with the shifter-chip.

This error results in small vertical black lines on the display. The delay in the MEGAs will probably also affect the PC since ATARI said they would

only put out the PC after the MEGAs to show their preferences. But with Jack Tramiel one never can be certain. The last all new product was laser printer. Connected to one of the MEGAs it was turning out page after page.

The quality was as can be expected from such a machine. The printer emulates a Diablo 630 and supports GDOS. According to a German ATARI representative they are working on Postscript.

Naturally ATARI was not the only to show new products. On the hardware there was also HEISE, a German publishing house, that showed its new version of the real-time language PEARL/RTOS system which was developed at Hanover University. It was simultaneously showing a graphic (a more sophisticated version of the only too-well-known jumping-ball) and controlling a robot that balanced a glass of water.

BASIS-O, who formerly built APPLE compatibles, showed an interesting new integrated scanner-printer/plotter and telecopier. Within 4 minutes it is possible to send or receive a letter in handwriting or with graphics on any public or private telephone. The device incorporates an acoustic coupler and can be run on rechargeable batteries. The resolution is 4096 pixels per line and 1125 lines per page.

PRINT-TECHNIK presented its 3rd-generation digitizers.

Their new Realtizer digitizes a picture with up to 16 gray-levels in less than one second. It now plugs into the ROM-port.

Its big brother, the PRO 87, digitizes 1024 pixels in 512 lines and 128 gray-levels. Both digitizers come with a toolbox-software and the PRO 87 also includes the necessary hardware for real-color images. PRINT-TECHNIK also offers a Genlock-interface for the ST.

Other products are a Meteosat weather satellite receiver, a sound digitizer and a memory-oscilloscope.

GTI, a Berlin-based society, presented a VMEbus-interface that plugs into the DMA-port and includes a full bus-arbitration-logic and supports interrupts. The DMA-port is pulled through so that a hard-disk can still be used.

Another bus that opens your ATARI is produced by RHOTRON. It is plugged onto the CPU and has eight slots.

Since installing the bus voids the warranty RHOTRON also offers a PC-like case in which the ST and the bus and a stronger power supply are incorporated.

Rhotron offers several cards to fill the slots, from 2-Meg RAM to multifunction-cards they have just about everything, or how about a math-coprocessor?

A barcode-reader can be obtained from CDS in Freiburg/Rhine valley. Barcodes invade our lives, they tell you what is in a specific product, which film you just rented and with such a

reader you can find out yourself.

LINDY, a maker of printer cables and other computer add-ons also presented an oscilloscope. It can be used as a sound sampler or as a digital scope.

The last interesting hardware I wish to present was not on the show, but since Desktop Publishing is becoming more and more important, I feel it should be mentioned.

HEIM-Verlag, another young publishing house, that was the first in Germany to have a magazine purely dedicated to the ST-line (STcomputer-mag), offered a program and interface to connect an ST to a CompuGraphic-MCS-layout station called 'transmit'. They use it to make their magazine. And as far as I can tell it seems to work pretty well.

WORD PROCESSORS

CEBIT '87 had plenty of Atari word processors to offer. DATA-Becker (their products are sold by ABACUS in the US) presented their new BECKER-text, the new version of TEXTOMAT ST (TEXTPRO). There are no more control-codes in the text (WYSIWYG) and it features an indexing function as well as an automatic table of contents. Graphics can be included and computation and tables are incorporated.

Most functions can be reached by either the mouse or a key combination. It still has the C-Source option and now offers different fonts.

As usual DATA-Becker has produced several books, some of them are new versions of old titles, and I found several addressing the 'professional'

who still can learn a lot from these books. Of course they have a lot of books for beginners as well, but I don't know which books ABACUS will publish and which are just for the German market.

Again, ATARI offered an alternative to the just described program. I'm talking about the finally released '1st Word Plus'. This program cures most of the errors and oddities of the original 1st Word and adds some nice new features as well. It is going to be really difficult to make a choice between 1st Word Plus and BECKER-text since both have nice features the competitor does not have and as well there are still wishes I have for both.

A third text-editor which was not on the show, but has caused a lot of is SIGNUMI which is retailed by Application Systems in Heidelberg. SIGNUMI stands somewhere between a word processor and a Desktop Publishing system. It allows up to seven fonts of 128 characters each at the same time. A character can be just about everything and an editor to create new is included. SIGNUMI offers macros and very powerful placing utilities. A reviewer called it a calligraphy-system. (Calligraphy is the art of embellishing writing). TOOLS

G-DATA, based in Dusseldorf, has been known over here for its quality utility software. They have improved some of their old programs and added new ones including a program to make a Hard disk capable of auto-booting and several programs to make backups of a hard disk which has some nice

features including data-compression, and file size of more than disk size.

The most powerful tool for disk-repair and editing is T.L.D.U. by FOCUS. This firm has made disk-monitors for years. T.L.D.U. is fully programmable and the disk comes with some example-macros which offer a good way to learn the necessary commands. The programming language is very C-like. The current release does not read or write some copy-protected disks, but an update has been promised for June. T.L.D.U. also includes a disassembler and an extensive manual.

KUMA presented its late releases of K-SWITCH and K-RESOURCE.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Finally there is some movement in the German mailbox and telecommunication community. Some good programs were at the show. DELUXE-Term supports GEM and is somewhat equal in comfort to FLASH, but it is possible to use 1200/75 baud which is necessary for BILDSCHIRM-TEXT, the German version of VIDEO-TEXT services.

Another program, again offered by ATARI themselves, is 1st Terminal, that is completely GEM-based in conjunction with PROFIBOX, an excellent mailbox program. It is even possible to select from the PROFIBOX menus using your mouse when utilizing 1st Terminal.

Both programs, the box and the terminal program have been written by Brain-Works from Rosenheim in Bavaria.

**New ST Public Domain Disks Being Added In May and June**

The following new ST disks will be added to our public domain ST library. They are filled to single-sided capacity. The cost is \$5.00 for each disk, but members may buy 3, and get 1 free. This charge is considered nominal and is considered to cover the cost of the disk and a copying charge. All proceeds go toward the support of the club.

<u>NUM</u>	<u>DISK TYPE</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>
101	UTILITY	ALIAS: Rename multiple files using wildcards, DISCAT: Disk cataloging utility supporting addition of comments on each file, HDSCAN: Catalogs files on hard disks, MAILMERG: No Frills Mailmerge Program which merge text files, PRINT: Print text files with options for manual input of printer codes and skip over perforations, RAMCOPY: Copy files to ramdisk on bootup with support for multiple ramdisks & sources, STARTUP: Execute batch commands from startup.inf file.
102	UTILITY	DCOPY1.82: DOS functions from extensive menu, DISKTOP2: Fast access, easily updated disk cataloging utility which requires minimal memory & has lists in 2 columns, HDBOOT: Make ST boot from hard disk, LABELER: Super Label runs through files and asks which ones to put on label, TINYUNST: Tiny to Neo format converter VISICALC: Public domain spreadsheet for the ST.
103	GAME	BRIDGEIT: A 2 player, connect- the-dots type game which may be played over a modem, GFAGAMES: A folder with two excellent card games in GFA Basic - Klondike and Canfield, MONEY: Catch the bouncing money, SNAFUX: A very fast "worms" type game, WHEEL19: Wheel of Fortune.
104	MISC	MONOPRGS: Several small monochrome demo programs, NAGELBIO: Nagel's Biorhythm Program, PERSPOET: Have your own Personal Poet program to write poetry for you, XMASNITE: A computerized Night Before Xmas.
105	DEMO	INDIANA JONES DEMO: A ready-to-run Indiana Jones Demo with the picture files loading into a ramdisk upon bootup. The demo shows the sword fighter in "Raiders of the Lost Arc" whirling his sword about. Another demo, MOLLY, a pattern generating, self-running colorful demo is included on the disk.
106	UTILITY	MACROPIX: Drawing Program, DSLIDE: Delux Slide Show - a viewer which will show pictures which are in any one of a of a number of formats, PICSWITCH: Picswitch Ver .7 - picture viewer and format converter, PRTSPOOL: Printer spooler program, QUICKDB: ST Magazine Article Database,



<u>NUM</u>	<u>DISK TYPE</u>	<u>PROGRAMS</u>
107	DEMO	SPHERES: A visually striking graphic demo showing four shiny balls rotating about another ball and all of them moving over a checkered surface - The speed of the demo may be varied by the viewer by pressing numeric keys, BASIC: Five demos in Basic - Cir36seg, Piefills, Rings, Soundd, and STcastle - The latter is also a game.
108	DEMO	GOLDRUNR: A colorful, self- running demo of the arcade game Goldrunner, FRACTLGFA: A fractals demo written in GFA Basic, STPLAY: A musical demo, MONODEMO: Three demos for the monochrome monitor - Monodemo, Quix, and String.
109	TINY PICS	On this disk are 28 color pictures of various cartoon characters, including Robotech' Lynn Minmei, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, and Heman characters.
110	TINY PICS	This disk contains 23 pictures, 16 of which feature the space shuttle. Nearly all of these are digitized, but one is an excellent animated picture of the shuttle lifting off, while another is a tribute to the Challenger. There are several digitized pictures of astronauts spacewalking which are particularly striking. The balance of the pictures on the disk are related to Space, such as pictures of planets.

LIBRARY DISK SPECIAL

Beginning at the June meeting, Milatari will be offering a single-sided, two-disk set of a listing of the programs in the Milatari ST Public Domain Library. The set will sell for \$5.00, each disk therefore costing \$2.50. The current configuration is that each disk contains a text file of all the files in the library. One disk lists all files in alphabetical order,

while the other lists them by disk. The name of the folder in which the files are found on the disks are shown, as well as the file size and all date-time stamp information. These files were created by a library program which is not presently in the public domain, so that program is not on the disk. However, the program only creates the files, and it is not needed to view or

print them. The fact that the listing is a text file gives the user flexibility to edit or print out the data as desired. Also contained on the disks is the Milatari Custom Icon Set and other miscellaneous files.

- Dennis Wilson ST Public
Domain Librarian.

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THE SYSOP'S KORNER

by Richard Dankert, your Friendly Sysop

Hello ALL;

Hope that you're all doing well. Just fine you say, well good. Here we are with another month, and another review, another time for me to capture you're attention, so here we go.....

This month is ELECTIONS month. Well did everybody make sure to nominate someone to help keep the club running smoothly???? I know that all, or at least most of, the Milwaukeeans I know are a pretty conservative lot. Most of you like to stay in the background and let everyone else make the decisions for you. Well, like I say to everyone that is of voting age that says he didn't vote, "Nice decision, Hope that you agreed with the outcome!" If you didn't, well you know who you can blame!

Well, I have made nominations, and attended the meeting to vote. WHY? Because it's my club also, and I wanted a hand in electing officers, that will suite the club well, and make sure the club keeps on going forward, and not get slagged down too much with politics. I know, politics really are not that exciting to many of you, but if you would get involved, attend the board of Director's meeting, and just generally help your fellow computer enthusiasts, you would find it very fulfilling. That plus the fact that you know that you had something to say, as far as the club is concerned. Where

it's going and where it should not! If we all would take this kind of dedication on, then the club would get further along faster. As the old saying goes, "Two heads are better than one", and I would have to come to the logical conclusion, that many heads are better than a few! It really doesn't take that much effort to get involved, and it is very rewarding! Heck fire, I've been maintaining this BBS for the last 2 years, which is a better track record than this club has ever seen. I have even gone to the limit of giving up a days pay, when I felt that the board was in need of some much needed programming, and took on the task, and accomplished it. Now I'm not saying that you should quit you're jobs (some of you don't work, so this is not directed at you), but just giving a little of you're time to the club, would not only better the club, but you would be helping you're self out also. Something to think about, wouldn't you say?

Ok enough of that, I wish to take the time here to thank Tom Johnson, (also known on our BBS as T. JOHNSON) for his stepping out, and taking on the responsibility to write a program review for all the 8-bit people that are on the board. This will be an on-going part of the board, and I know that Tom is a little nervous about his first review, which you will now find by using the "V" command. The review I felt was very well done.

Tom didn't want to bore you too much, so he kept it short, but as he gets into his groove, I think we will find Tom to be a little more of a novelist. Tom, you may have seen in the message base, has been keeping you all up to date on the new software that is becoming available for the 8-bit machines, and has quite a collection of software, that he has purchased over the years, and is now more than willing to share his knowledge and or explanations, about any 8-bit software that he has, and knowing TOM, if it's been a late release, he's most likely got it!

Again Thanks a lot TOM!

hurray-- clap -- applause -- etc.

Now are there any ST people out there that would like to assume the same role, for the rest of the ST user's out there? Come on, I know you're out there, just take that step, and come forward. Ask TOM, it's not too hard! Besides that, I just know that their are a lot of ST people out their that are dying to read about a review by someone close to home, and has used the program, and can give a review that is unbiased! Do I hear anyone? Oh well, I'll give you some time to think about it, and if that's not enough, I'll just have to use my charms, and hook one of you. One way or another I'm gonna get ya.....

Well that's it for this month. As always, Keep the Faith.....

- The Sysop....

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MILATARI membership is open to individuals and families who are interested in using and programming Atari computers. The membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to the club libraries. The annual membership fee is \$20.00 for individuals or \$25.00 for a family.

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